SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

May 25, 2004 Meeting Minutes AZ BLM State Office, Phoenix, AZ

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Waterbury (Chair), Pam McAlpin, Bob Lee, Nancy Neskaukas, Dugger

Hughes, Jay Ellington (Exec. Sec.)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jeff Whitney, Bryan Swift, Willie Begay, Kirk Rowdabaugh

GUESTS: None

The meeting began at 1300, March 25, 2004. Minutes for the March 18, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

FOLLOW-UP AGENDA ITEMS FROM 2/23 MEETING:

NM RX SMOKE COORDINATION (LETTER)

DECISION: Done.

NM GOVERNOR BRIEFING

DECISION: Done.

520/620 CANDIDATES

DECISION: Send only fully accomplished and qualified folks. Each agency checks their own qualifications for each nomination.

SW FIRE USE TEAM RESPONSE TO GREAT BASIN

DECISION: Done. Roster being firmed up.

FUTA AGREEMENT (SWCG RESPONSES AND AGENCY SIGNATURES)

DECISION: Done.

SWCG/MAC GROUP HANDBOOK (CHANGES/UPDATES)

DECISION: Waterbury still working on.

FUEL MOISTURE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

DECISION: Awaiting updated draft from Maxwell.

SPOT FORECAST FEEDBACK FORM

DECISION: Dugger to follow-up with Maxwell.

WEATHER WORKING GROUP PROPOSED CHARTER

DECISION: Dugger to follow-up with Maxwell.

MEXICO BORDER AGREEMENT

DECISION: Bill to forward National Agreement to Jay for posting to SWCG website. Still working on

Geographic Area.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

GEOGRAPHIC AREA FIRE PLANNING ANALYSIS

Committee has completed a draft map of the entire Area. Bob proposed creating FMU's within each FPU. SWA Committee to oversee coordination, including putting together process for FPU's to follow, submission of documents, development of a charter, meetings, etc. Discussion revolved around the use of the two state organizations, committee leadership, and participation of national folks.

DECISION: Bob to develop draft charter. Bob/Bill to ask Ginger to pull the current committee together, set out timeline, select lead, and start the process. AICG will review their charter to see what stake they may have in the FPU process.

MEDIA GUIDELINES/PREVENTION COMMITTEE/INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Carrie Templin and Jim Payne distributed and discussed a few concerns with the National Media Guidelines. WFLC has approved the national guidelines, but has not distributed through each agency. Bill will follow-up with WFLC to see if they have or will be distributing through agency channels. After the discussion on the national guidelines, Carrie distributed the SWA 'draft' guidelines. Minimal changes (i.e. only dates/removing the word "draft") were needed, so the SWCG members present approved the 'draft.' The Information Committee and Prevention Committee will work together to come up with a plan for Oversight, Coordination, and Distribution of Restrictions/Closures, PSA's, etc. They will identify problems and recommend resolution.

The next meeting of the Southwest Coordinating Group is scheduled for July 13, 2004 in Flagstaff, AZ.

The meeting adjourned at 1600, May 25, 2004.

/s/ Bill Waterbury
Chair
Southwest Coordinating Group

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